

SELFIDGE FIELD, BUILDING NO. 801
(Resident Engineers Office)
(BE Maintenance Shop)
West side Jefferson Ave., south of George Ave.
Mt. Clemens vicinity
Macomb County
Michigan

HAER No. MI-116-HH

HAER
MICH
50-MTCLE.V
1HH-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Great Lakes Systems Office
1709 Jackson Street
Omaha, NE 68102-2571

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SELFRIDGE FIELD
BUILDING #801 (RESIDENT ENGINEERS OFFICE)
(B.E. Maintenance Shop) HAER No. MI-116-HH

Location:

West of Jefferson Avenue South of George Avenue

Selfridge Air National Guard Base

Mt. Clemens vic., Macomb Co. MI

U.S.G.S. Mount Clemens East Quadrangle, Universal Transverse
Mercator Coordinates: 17.350290.4719020

Significance:

This building represents the metal prefabricated buildings erected at Selfridge as the base expanded to meet its Cold War era defense mission.

Description:

This building is a rectangular plan, 32 foot wide by 101 feet 10 inch front gabled structure erected on a concrete slab with a steel truss frame. Its walls and roof are sheathed in vertically seamed metal panels, and a manufacturer's identification plate imprinted "BUTLER" occurs at the apex of the gable ends. All elevations display explicitly functional piercing patterns. The principal (east) elevation presents six bays defined by four steel frame windows and two pedestrian entry doors. These two doors are located in a front gabled projecting aluminum sided vestibule situated near the northeast corner of the building adjacent to a small shed roofed, corrugated metal storage unit. The north elevation presents the most symmetrical composition on the building, its three bays defined by steel framed windows. The west elevation displays eight bays defined by a central pedestrian entry door flanked by a variety of steel framed and vinyl and sash and sliding replacement windows. The entrance is shielded by a shed roof hood, while a linear shed roof storage unit extends along much of the south bay of this elevation. The south elevation displays two bays represented by a projecting gabled entry vestibule with paired steel pedestrian entry doors that is flanked on the west by an aluminum track window.

The floor plan of this prefabricated building consists of a large workshop that consumes the southern 40 feet of building except for a 10 by 12 foot office partitioned by frame walls in the southwest corner building and a store room accessed by a steel mesh door in the center of the building. A hallway leads northward to a second large workshop area that occupies most of the north section of the building except for a locker room in the northeast corner and an office in the northwest corner of the

building. The interior divisions are frame and covered in wallboard although the offices are now sheathed in paneling and are carpeted.

History: The Resident Engineers Office was erected in 1958 by the Selfridge Office of the Post Engineer from plans for a "rigid wide frame building" from the Butler Manufacturing Company of Indianapolis, Indiana.¹ In the 1970s Building #801 was converted to use as a shop, storage and maintenance facility as well as a plumbing shop for general base operations.² It is currently vacant.

Sources: Anonymous, Brief History of Selfridge Air Force Base, 1917-1960, unpublished ms., Air Force Historical Research Agency, Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama, 1960.

_____, Guide and Directory, Selfridge Air Force Base, Selfridge Air Force Base, Michigan, 1960.

Copy of construction drawing, dated September 12, 1958, U.S. Army Engineer District, Detroit, in possession of Selfridge Base Museum, Mt. Clemens, Michigan. Floor Plan Elevations and Details, Sheet 3 of 3, File SF 5/970.

Interview, Colonel Robert Stone (Ret.), Curator, Selfridge Base Museum, October 13, 1995.

Interview, Eric Reeve, Selfridge Environmental Management, October 12, 1995.

Historian: William E. Rutter
Midwest Environmental Consultants, Inc.
May, 1996

¹Original construction plans on file, Selfridge Base Museum and Civil Engineers Office

² Interview, Colonel Robert Stone (ret.), Curator, Selfridge Base Museum, October 13, 1995.